



San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education Consortium San Antonio, Texas

Self-Prescribing and Immediate Family Member Prescribing Policy Among Physicians-in-Training

According to the American Medical Association, Opinion 8.19 of the AMA Code of Medical Ethics, “physicians generally should not treat themselves or members of their immediate families.” Professional objectivity may be compromised when the immediate family member or the physician is the patient and may be inclined to treat problems that are beyond their expertise or training or fail to recognize more serious conditions when present. Listed below are the policies governing each Branch of Service. The SAUSHEC Resident Training Agreement (RTA) additionally prohibits the prescribing of psychoactive medications to immediate family members.

A. Air Force Policy

1. Air Force physicians-in-training are strictly prohibited from self-prescribing medications (AFI 44-102, 10.2.5), ordering labs, x-rays, consults/referrals, or performing procedures on themselves (AFI 44-102, 1.3.8.6.5). For family members, they are prohibited from prescribing medications listed on the controlled substances list (AFI 44-102, 1.3.8.6.2). The exception to this policy is only in an emergency or isolated setting where no other provider is available (AFI 44-102, 1.3.8.6.1, 1.3.8.6.3). Physicians, who have prescribing privileges, are permitted to prescribe medications not on the controlled substances list for their immediate family members (AFI 44-102, 1.3.8.6.4.).

2. For each medication ordered, physicians-in-training are required to document a diagnosis, condition or indication in the BAMC Medical Information System (BAMC Memorandum 40-22). Co-signature by a supervising staff attending is required on all outpatient notes in AHLTA. The analogous process is also required at WHASC, or any other training hospital the resident/fellow may attend. This includes any prescriptions written for MTF or civilian pharmacies.

B. Army Policy

1. Army physicians-in-training, with prescribing privileges, are permitted to self-prescribe; however, are not authorized to prescribe controlled substances for themselves or members of their families (AR 40-3, 11-11e). They are permitted to prescribe medications not on the controlled substances list for their immediate family members. However, the SAUSHEC Resident Training Agreement additionally prohibits the prescribing of psychoactive medications to immediate family members.

2. For each medication ordered, physicians-in-training are required to document diagnosis, condition, or indication in the BAMC Medical Information System (BAMC Memorandum 40-22). This includes any prescriptions written for MTF or civilian pharmacies. Co-signature by a supervising staff attending is required on all outpatient notes in AHLTA.

3. Army physicians assigned to or rotating at Air Force MTF's follow the AFI rules for prescribing.

C. Navy Policy

1. Navy physicians-in-training, with prescribing privileges, are permitted to self-prescribe; however, are strictly prohibited from prescribing or furnishing a controlled substance for themselves or members of their immediate family (NAVMED P-117, Article 21-22). Additionally, the SAUSHEC Resident Training Agreement prohibits the prescribing of psychoactive medications to immediate family members.

2. For each medication ordered, physicians-in-training are required to document diagnosis, condition, or indication in the BAMC Medical Information System (BAMC Memorandum 40-22). This includes any prescriptions written for MTF or civilian pharmacies. Co-signature by a supervising staff attending is required on all outpatient notes in AHLTA.

3. Navy physicians assigned to or rotating at Air Force MTF's follow the AFI rules for prescribing.